

## GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

May 16, 2016

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/coolidge>



Dear Families,

For the past three weeks, half of the students and teachers in our school have been focused on the same task, namely completing PARCC testing. The PARCC test (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) has two components – English Language Arts and Mathematics. You might think that students that do well in these subjects will do well on the assessments. Yet there is another quality of ‘readiness’ that has an oversize impact on student success, and it’s much more basic. As it happens, reading the directions carefully is just as important as using your skills. Interestingly, however, we sometimes find that a child that’s confident in their strengths is also likely to skip over or skim the directions.

Since the PARCC requires students to reason in writing, students are frequently asked to solve two-step problems and to share their answers to questions with both parts. Remember the children that skim directions? They are more likely than their peers to read and respond to just one part. Further, the way scoring on the PARCC works, students that don’t answer both parts correctly simply don’t get credit.

Parents often ask us how they can help their children to get ready for the PARCC test. My advice? It’s important not to focus overmuch on this one measure of your child’s achievement. Certainly students that spend more time drilling skills don’t necessarily do better. Think of these first test experiences as opportunities for learning. How do you motivate your child to do their best work every day? Developing children that take pride in being careful about their work habits all the time is time well spent. It’s the students that take their time, check their work, and use all their resources that score highest. Since your child will be facing test-taking experiences throughout their school years, mastering these good work habits early will serve them well.

Sincerely,  
*Amy*  
Amy Clouter  
Principal

---

## Important Upcoming Dates:

May 16-19	PARCC testing Grade 4, Math
May 17	Meal Magic begins in Coolidge cafeteria – see article below
May 25	Last PTO Mtg 7 pm
May 27	School Store
June 1	Spring Concert 7 pm
June 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Lowell
June 6	Medal Ceremony – Kindergarten: 9:30
June 7	Medal Ceremony – Grade 1: 9:30
June 10	Field Day (rain date June 17)
June 13	Medal Ceremony – Grade 2: 9:30
June 15	Medal Ceremony – Grade 3
June 17	Last Day for Kindergartners
June 20	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Completion Ceremony & Medal Ceremony: 9:30
June 21	Last day of school (early release day)

**Coolidge Field Day: Friday, June 10 (rain date Friday, June 17.)**

**Fourth Grade Completion Ceremony Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

---

**Parent Pickup Parents**

While you are in line waiting to pick up your child after school, please turn off your car engine until the line begins to move to keep car fumes at a minimum. Also, please keep your radios low, as the sound carries and can disturb students in their classroom now that the warmer weather is coming and the classroom windows will be open.

---

## **Meal Magic at Coolidge Cafeteria Starts Tuesday, May 17**

The Food Service will be implementing a new, computerized point-of-sale system in the Coolidge Street School Cafeteria- **Tuesday, May 17, 2016.**

How do you find your child's pin #? Log into your Parent Portal and you will find your child's date of birth and a six-digit number titled: **LASID #:** That is your child's pin for Meal Magic. This number will travel with your child all through their time at Shrewsbury schools. Below is a copy of the letter everyone received.

Dear Parents,

The Food Service Department will be implementing a new, computerized point-of-sale system in the Coolidge Street Cafeteria - Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

This system is currently being used at the Floral, Middle and High School Cafeterias. This system, *Meal Magic*, offers many features:

- ▶ Creates an individual account for each student accessible with their student identification number
- ▶ Allows students to pre-pay for lunch and snacks eliminating the need for cash
- ▶ Eliminates the prepaid ticket system for students on free, reduced price or full pay lunches

**ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER THEIR STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER WHEN MAKING ANY PURCHASES REGARDLESS IF THEY ARE FULL PAY OR FREE/REDUCED ELIGIBLE.**

You received a letter with a card attached with your child's pin number. Please keep this card at home in a visible location where you can help your child learn his/her pin

number.

Lunch tickets will no longer be sold as of May 6, 2016. Money or checks received after this date will be credited to your child's Meal Magic Account and debited beginning May 17, 2016 as your child makes a cafeteria purchase. Cash or checks can be sent with your child to give to cafeteria cashiers to be credited to their account. Checks should be made out to the Food Service Department. Please note the child's name whose account you want credited on your check memo line. Checks can also be mailed to the Food Service Department C/C High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

Students may still use cash or unused tickets at the register but they will be required to enter their student identification number prior to each purchase.

Please refer to the attached Frequently Asked Questions document for more specific information about Meal Magic and to put money on your child's account.

If you have any further questions you may contact me, Beth Nichols - Food Service Director, at 508-841-8819 or [bnichols@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:bnichols@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

Sincerely,  
Beth Nichols  
Food Service Director

<b>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</b>
-----------------------------------

**Why does a student have to enter their ID number?**

Students need to enter their ID number so the system can identify their status of full price, reduced price or free meals.

The monthly total of free, reduced and paid meals is reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Students need to enter their ID number to access funds in their account.

**Why are meal counts reported to DESE?**

The Shrewsbury Food Service is reimbursed for every free, reduced and paid meal it serves by state and federal funds. These funds contribute to about 25% of Food Service Revenues. These funds are critical to the Food Service Operating Budget.

**Is student specific information being shared with the DESE?**

No. Only total meals served monthly in the District is reported.

**Is student specific information being shared for any other purpose?**

No student specific information is being shared.

**Is detailed information being collected about what students purchase in the cafeterias?**

No. Very little information has been programmed into the cash registers. The register screens were kept very simple so transactions would be as fast as possible for students. For example when a student purchases a lunch it is rung in only as lunch. For example when a student purchases an a-la-carte item it is rung in as an a-la-carte item with a price ( a-la-carte \$.50 or a-la-carte \$.75.

**I get free breakfast and lunches . How do I get a free meal?**

*Students who get a free meals will simply type in their student identification number into the keypad. The system will recognize your free status.*

**I get reduced priced breakfast and lunches . How do I pay for meals?**

*Students who get reduced meals will simply type in their student identification number into the keypad. The system will recognize your reduced status and ask you to pay the reduced price for those meals or debit money you have on your account.*

**I receive free meals. Will this new system ensure confidentiality about my status?**

*Yes. When a transaction occurs, the register screen will indicate to the cashier not to collect money, which is what occurs when a full pay student has money on account.*

**I receive reduced meals. Will this new system ensure confidentiality about my status?**

*Yes. When a transaction occurs, the register screen will indicate to the cashier to collect money or not to if a student has money on their account which is what occurs when a full pay student owes money or has money on account.*

**Can I use cash at the register?**

*Yes. Cash can be used for all transactions. Students must still enter their student identification number.*

**How can I pre-pay for breakfast, lunches or snacks?**

*Simply bring cash or a check to the register and the cashier will credit your individual account or send a check to: Food Service Department C/O High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, Ma. 01545 for the amount you want credited to your account.*

*Make sure to specify your child's name whose account you want credited.*

*Checks should be made out to the Food Service Department .*

*To take advantage of monthly promos checks must be sent to the Food Service Department C/O High School 64 Holden Street ,Shrewsbury, Ma. 01545. School cashiers cannot process promotions.*

*If you send a check with your child to give to the cashier, that check can only be for the student at Floral whose account you want credited. This check cannot be for multi children in the district.*

*Checks sent to the Food Service Office can be split for more than one child's account.*

### **Can I make online payments?**

*Yes- Please visit the Food Service Web site for On Line payment information and instructions.*

### **Are all schools in the district using this new system?**

*No. The program is currently available only at the Floral, Middle and High Schools.*

### **What happens to the balance on my account at the end of the school year?**

*All balances on account will be carried forward to the next school year. Refunds are not issued.*

### **I am a full-pay student do I still use my student identification number to make purchases?**

*Yes. All students must use their student identification number to make all purchases.*

### **What happens to my balance if I move or transfer to another school?**

*Only balances with more than \$10 will be refunded. All other balances must be used prior to un-enrolling.*

### **What if another student learns my student identification number?**

*Every time you enter your student identification number your school photo appears on the cash register touch screen. Cashiers will ensure the photo matches the purchaser.*

### **What if I forget my student identification number?**

*Cafeteria Staff will be able to electronically access your student's account by entering his/her last name into the Meal Magic System.*

**Can I look up my account balance?**

*Yes. Parents can log in to the Parent Portal on Power School and click on Lunch Balance to see their child's account balance or*

**What happens if I have no money on account or cash to pay for my meal?**

*A student will be allowed to charge a meal. Each time a child charges a meal an e-mail will be sent to the parent requesting payment. Charging will not be allowed for snack purchases.*

**How do I find out my child's identification number?**

*A parent can go to the parent portal in Power School and log in and access their child's ID number.*

---

## **SSMA request for one elementary parent**

To all Elementary Music Parents,

The **SSMA (Shrewsbury Schools Music/Theater Association)** is in need of one parent representative from each elementary school to be a representative to the Board. The SSMA has helped raise funds for our performing groups for over 60 years. We have been able to support our music and theater programs district wide. There is one SSMA meeting per month on the first Tuesday of the month, September to June. You would bring any requests from your school's music teacher forward. After the meeting you would email the music teacher and the school PTO to share what is going on in the SSMA. If your child is passionate about the performing arts we would love to have your help guiding SSMA. If you have any questions or are ready to volunteer, please contact Aileen Lemoine at [lemoine93@townisp.com](mailto:lemoine93@townisp.com). You are invited to our end of the year meeting and social event on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> to meet your fellow Board members and the new Executive Committee.

---

## **Coolidge Photos**



### **Mrs. Jarvi's Wild About Animals After School Class:**

**Mrs' Jarvi says:** This week we learned about the platypus. Did you know that the platypus can only be found in Australia, can shoot venom from it's hind legs, and is a mammal that lays eggs?

---

### **PTO NEWSFLASH**

**Email:** [ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

**Blog:** <http://coolidgepto.wordpress.com/> The PTO has created a blog as an additional resource for information and notices. Come check it out!

**Facebook Group:** "Calvin Coolidge PTO"

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/coolidgepto/> All parents, guardians, and staff are welcome to join our group on Facebook. It's a great place to chat with the community or ask a question.

**Direct Donation:** <https://npo.justgive.org/coolidgepto> There are many ways to help support the PTO, a direct donation is just one.

\*\*\*\*\*

1. PTO Meeting- Thursday, May 25, 2016
2. Chair Needed for a "Boys' Special Person" Event
3. Chair Needed for Open House/Visiting Day
4. LAST CALL for Spirit Gear
5. Teacher Appreciation Lunch- May 25th

6. Field Day and Walk-A-Thon Volunteers Needed

7. Boxtops

\*\*\*\*\*

**1.PTO MEETING:** Join us on Thursday, May 25th at 7pm in the Media Center for our last PTO meeting!

**2. Chair Needed for a "Boys' Special Person" Event:** Our wonderful chair who ran the "Man of Your Life" dance for our girls is unable to coordinate an event for our boys due to unforeseen circumstances. If you are interested in running an event for the boys of our school, please let us know by contacting [rachelreeve@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelreeve@yahoo.com).

**3.Chair Needed for Open House/Visiting Day at summer's end:** Visiting Day is a wonderful time for our students to come to the school before the beginning of the new year to locate their new classroom and meet up with classmates. Fourth grade volunteers act as tour guides. **Will you help coordinate this event?** Please contact [rachelreeve@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelreeve@yahoo.com) to learn more!

**4. LAST CALL For Coolidge Spirit Gear-** Deadline for orders extended to **May 16th at midnight**. See the new cardinal selections at

<http://www.spiritgeardirect.com/GearDrive/Store.aspx?guid=47805eac-4235-4b60-b6da-0a87371a5ea7>

*Items will be delivered to Coolidge the beginning of June. Questions- e-mail [janebell72@hotmail.com](mailto:janebell72@hotmail.com).*

**5.The Coolidge School is sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation Lunch for the teachers/staff on May 25th.**

Teachers are our everyday Super Heroes and we need to make sure they know it! In order to make this event possible we are looking for your help. We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, serving and take-down the day of the event, as well as food and other donations to make the lunch extra special for our everyday super heroes. **Thank you to all those who have already volunteered to make donations or help out. If there is something that you would like to donate that is not on the list, feel free! .**

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F48AAAA2CAAFF2-teachers](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F48AAAA2CAAFF2-teachers)

**\*\*\*Also, we are extending the super hero collection until the end of the week 5/20. Don't forget to recognize your favorite teachers and staff at Coolidge school by filling out a super hero temple in their honor. Turn all super heroes in to the main office.**

## **6. Field Day and Walk-A-Thon Volunteers Needed**

June 10<sup>th</sup> (Rain-date Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>)

On field Day all Coolidge students enjoy a day with their class outside. They rotate through fun-filled stations throughout the morning with a break in between for snack. After the stations are finished, they eat lunch outside. **We need as many parents as possible to help make this day a success.** Volunteers are needed to help with set-up at 7:30am, to run field day activities from 8:30-12:30 and to help with the Walk-A-Thon from 12:00-3:00.

**If you are available to help out on this fun filled day please MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A CURRENT CORI CHECK ON FILE and email Melissa Pratt at [mpratt@townisp.com](mailto:mpratt@townisp.com).**

7. We will be collecting **Boxtops** through the end of the school year, so please keep clipping. Your trash is our treasure. Thank you!

*To include news about your committee, fundraiser or PTO event in future newsflashes, please e-mail your submissions to Kristie Biando at [kbiando74@gmail.com](mailto:kbiando74@gmail.com)*